

Jammin' to Jazz Family Activity



IDAHO STATE
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Learn about the history of jazz musicians in Idaho. Create your own Jazz-inspired artwork while listening to a curated playlist of jazz music.

Jazz is an art form that arose when musicians began combining the musical traditions, improvisation, rhythm, harmony, and instruments of West Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe. For many, playing and listening to jazz music, is a way to express emotions, from pain to joy. A number of jazz greats called Idaho their home.



Gene Harris at the piano in Boise, ID. Image from Idaho State Museum

Pianist extraordinaire Gene Harris (1933-2000), who semi-retired in Boise in the late 1970s, played local gigs at the Idanha Hotel and St. Chappelle winery. He was convinced to go back on tour to perform with world-renowned bassist Ray Brown in 1980 before passing away in Boise in 2000. He was influential in Idaho for his contributions to jazz education. He founded the annual Gene Harris Jazz Festival that offers jazz students the opportunity to hear and learn about jazz. His signature sound is described as warm and joyful.



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Listen to and translate the sounds of Jazz music into a piece of artwork using resources at home. Explore your thoughts and feelings as you create a new masterpiece inspired by the sounds of jazz.

Materials

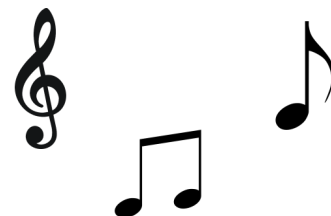
- A computer, smartphone or tablet with internet connection
- Headphones or speakers
- Your favorite art supplies (pencils, crayons, paint, paper, magazines, clay)

Instructions

1. Listen to the music in the Museum's "Jammin' to Jazz" Spotify playlist and reflect upon which songs are your favorite.
2. Look at the examples of Jazz-inspired artwork to start thinking about how you will translate the sounds you hear into art. Collect your art supplies at this time and get prepared to use them.
3. With your art supplies ready, play **one** of your favorite recordings from the playlist. You may want to "repeat" the recording so that it will continue to play as you create your artwork.
4. Free your imagination and translate what you hear into some visual form. Here are some questions to consider as you listen and create:

What is the color or **What tempo do** **Does the music have**
shape of the music? **you hear?** **movement?**

What instruments **How does it**
do you hear? **make you feel?**



Mural honoring composer Scott Joplin, Arkansas by Carol M. Highsmith. Original image from Library of Congress.



Artwork by Sam Middleton, Gelderland collection, 2014.

